

1 REVEREND ONAMWAR: The same here with my
2 group, we do have a youth group and women's group as
3 well.

4 REVEREND DAVID: I think that's a
5 uniform thing in all the Micronesian churches, there
6 is a youth ministry, and there is a women's
7 ministry. The thing to sort of tack on in relations
8 to the Pohnpeian group, though, when you say youth
9 in the Pohnpeian church, it's not the same as when
10 you say it in the western culture because when you
11 say youth in the Pohnpeian church, that starts from
12 probably six years old all the way up to 35 or
13 something. So, you know, that gets kind of
14 complicated sometimes, but when you mention youth in
15 the church, everybody shows up because everybody
16 thinks that they are still youth.

17 PASTOR LORIN: We have run out of time.
18 I know there's a lot of questions out there. I am
19 very sorry, but because we are on a time limit
20 schedule, we are going to close it now.

21 Before we close, I want to thank the
22 members of this panel for being up here, and I want
23 to thank all of you also. Thank you very much.

24 MS. HOWARD: Thank you very much,
25 Reverends, and everybody. As you were listening to

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1 the beautiful speeches, the leaders of the breakout
2 sessions were working very hard on putting all of
3 the recommendations together that you all worked
4 hard on, so at this time, I would like to call upon
5 Ben Graham to come up and talk about the
6 recommendations.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, given that it is very

8 close to the end, I'm sure you guys are all tired,
9 and you would like to us run through this very
10 quickly. I am going to just summarize what -- we
11 had five break out groups, so in the last hour, last
12 two hours while you were, most of you were here, we
13 had the five break out groups, and then over the
14 last hour, we took all the recommendations from the
15 five groups and synthesized them into a shorter
16 list, and I guess we are not going to project it, so
17 I will go ahead and just read what these are.

18 So there will be a more extensive
19 written list of policy recommendations, and this
20 will be addressed to policy makers both in the State
21 of Hawaii as well as policy makers in the respective
22 island areas, and so this will be a much more
23 comprehensive document, but what we have done is we
24 have decided to synthesize this into eight major
25 themes, I guess you might say, or areas of

1 recommendations that we think we can take forward to
2 make improvements and to address a lot of the issues
3 that have come up.

4 The first one in terms of an overarching
5 policy recommendation is to establish a centralized
6 physical place for better dissemination of
7 information, resources, material, et cetera,
8 something like a one-stop shop of information where
9 all the Micronesian communities can go there to get
10 information, all the service providers can go there
11 to provide information, so something of a physical
12 place, a centralized place to disseminate and share
13 knowledge, if you will, so that's one of the major
14 recommendations. This could be something that the
15 consulate offices could collaborate on, so this is a
16 recommendation, I guess, to all policy makers,
17 quote, in the State of Hawaii as well as the FAS, so
18 get creative on how we can come up with some type of
19 facility like this, and it doesn't have to be very
20 large, just a physical space to provide a hub of
21 information.

22 Number two is we need more accurate and
23 better data on the Micronesian population in Hawaii,
24 and we strongly support the idea of a follow-up
25 census, if possible, a census that includes

1 geographic information in terms of the spacial
2 distribution of different community groups. That's
3 something that was emphasized as a policy
4 recommendation, and we understand that there is a
5 census being planned for the Micronesians in 2009.

6 A third recommendation is for the State
7 of Hawaii and all of its service providers to have
8 more clear and consistent information and more
9 accurate information on exactly what programs and
10 services Micronesians are eligible for, and a few
11 different people said that this has been an area of
12 confusion. Are we eligible for that specific
13 program or a subprogram under a different program?
14 So this is a specific area that we can see
15 improvements being made from the service provider's
16 side. There seems to be sometimes confusion even
17 among the service providers as to what the compact
18 allows us Micronesians to be eligible for, so that's
19 a general policy recommendation.

20 A fourth policy recommendation is to
21 establish a larger pool of qualified, certified, and
22 readily available interpreters. I think there are
23 some measures under way to, you know, go down this
24 path and to develop a larger pool of interpreters,
25 but maybe we could speed this up and emphasize this

1 more. And interpreters in all the major languages
2 addressing the issue that, you know, a Palauan, just
3 because he or she is in from Micronesia, doesn't
4 necessarily speak Chuukese or other languages in
5 Micronesia, so representing all of the different
6 major language groups.

7 Number five, we should have continued
8 funding and support for cultural competence training
9 for all the service providers. We saw some examples
10 of successful programs, really pilot programs that
11 have done this and that seem to be succeeding, so we
12 want to support more culture competence training for
13 the Hawaii side service providers. That's number
14 five.

15 Number six is we should have more
16 frequent meetings and dialogues such as this between
17 all the key stake holders. One of our groups
18 actually did like an stake holder mapping, not an
19 exercise, but we just said, hey, there are dozens of
20 different groups, we have the State service
21 providers, we have NGOs, churches, media people, and
22 the schools, and so the recommendation that is we
23 repeat this dial up process on a consistent basis,
24 you know, annually or semiannually or whatever, but
25 that's something that should continue between the

1 key stake holders.

2 Number seven would be to strengthen
3 training, bridging, and mentoring programs
4 especially for youth, so programs that really
5 develop the work force. That's another policy
6 recommendation that the group came up with,
7 especially targeting the younger Micronesians to get
8 them to better transition into being productive
9 citizens. That was number seven.

10 The last one is to increase
11 collaboration between Hawaii State governments,
12 including the neighbor islands, and the Freely
13 Associated States governments back home. This was
14 seen by a few different groups as an area of
15 improvement that we can emphasize, especially on
16 major issues like health, education.

17 You know, a lot of -- in fact, most of
18 the issues that Micronesians are facing in Hawaii
19 are identical to the issues that they are facing in
20 Micronesia, so the service providers in both places
21 need to collaborate this way in order to share
22 ideas, and a lot of clever things are being done
23 here that, you know, I live in the Marshall Islands,
24 I will take back and talk to people over there and
25 say this is what they are trying to do in Hawaii to

1 address a lot of these same issues.

2 So this collaboration across boundaries
3 should also take place, and one of the examples
4 under that recommendation number eight is for the
5 FSM and RMI governments to better prepare and orient
6 people prior to their departure. There is not a
7 whole lot of orientation or preparation of
8 Micronesians in Micronesia before they depart and
9 come to the United States, especially in the biggest
10 area of weakness which is in basic communication,
11 speaking in English, and so there are some ideas
12 that have come up in terms of how we can better
13 prepare Micronesians prior to their leaving home and
14 coming into, you know, an English speaking
15 environment.

16 So those are the eight kind of
17 overarching policy recommendations that the five
18 groups and then the one group that synthesized all
19 of this came up with. And if you have any
20 questions, I will be happy to point to the people
21 who can answer them. Since they picked me as the
22 spokesperson, they will be able to answer the
23 question.

24 As I said, we will develop a longer
25 list. This is a summary of about fifty or sixty

1 specific recommendations, and there are policy
2 recommendations addressing policy makers in Hawaii,
3 in the islands as well as addressing a lot of the
4 organizations that are involved in our key stake
5 holders in all of these issues, so that's it for the
6 recommendations, and I guess we have some time for
7 questions; is that right?

8 So this document with all of the
9 recommendations will be posted on the conference web
10 site. We should have it done by today. Any
11 questions?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will you just go
13 over again as far as who these recommendations will
14 be directed to?

15 MR. GRAHAM: Right. Well, some of these
16 are directed to, you know, specifically the State of
17 Hawaii and its multiple service providers. For
18 example, number three, you know, there has been
19 discussion, we have heard that there has been
20 discussion of some kind of a Hawaii State task force
21 on the Micronesian issues that can look at things
22 like clarifying -- because the confusion is not just
23 with us, the clients, but it's also with the service
24 providers as to what does the compact really allow
25 in terms of services and programs to the Micronesian

1 community? So that's a specific recommendation to
2 the service providers and the State of Hawaii.

3 There are some recommendations that are
4 for both, both sides of the table, for both the
5 Hawaii policy makers as well as the Micronesian
6 policy makers. One of those is number eight,
7 increasing collaboration between the two sides of
8 the policy makers or the governments, and what we
9 will try to do in the detailed policy recommendation
10 document is very specifically identify who this is
11 being assigned to or who we are hoping will take
12 action on each recommendation. Any other questions?

13 CANDACE: If we think that we might have
14 resources that could speak to some of these
15 recommendations, who should we contact?

16 MR. GRAHAM: Could you repeat that
17 question on the microphone?

18 CANDACE: Sorry. If we think that we
19 might have resources that could help with some of
20 these recommendations, who should we contact?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you say where
22 you are from so we know?

23 CANDACE: I'm sorry. I am Candace from
24 Chaminade University service learning.

25 MR. GRAHAM: That's a very good

1 question. Anyone want to take a stab at that? Yes,
2 go ahead.

3 MR. SALVADOR: I am going to request
4 that the CPIS provide contact information on the web
5 site to the two or three Micronesian organizations,
6 and I talked to a number of Micronesians, and they
7 want to do some kind of follow-up, a smaller
8 follow-up to this in terms of thinking about putting
9 this list into action.

10 I just want to make a quick comment
11 about the first, the compact task force, and I again
12 invite Sam Aiona to say something about that as
13 well. There have been some efforts to address that,
14 but because of either the lack of support or
15 whatever type of difficulty they had at the State
16 legislature, we may not have that bill passed and
17 then the Goodwill proposal to get funding for the
18 one stop center.

19 Sam, do you want to say anything about
20 that? Please explain to us.

21 MR. AIONA: Good afternoon, everyone, my
22 name is Sam Aiona. I am with the Office of
23 Community Services, and I would like to address all
24 eight of all, if I could, but since Richard asked me
25 to address just the one stop center, just to give

1 you a brief background, the task force got together
2 and many other organizations got together, and it
3 appears that the resource center seems like an
4 avenue where we all should be headed towards or a
5 goal that we all should be headed towards, and so
6 Goodwill Hawaii has put in a grant in aid at the
7 State legislature for \$500,000 to create a resource
8 center within Goodwill at the center on Beretania
9 Street.

10 We all know with the grant in aids, what
11 the process is, and it's not going to be easy. It
12 is going to be tough to get a grant in aid released.
13 It is going to be tough to work with the
14 administration and work with us to get the monies
15 released, and given the economic conditions of
16 Hawaii today, I don't want to be pessimistic, but it
17 will be a tough road ahead.

18 However, the administration, the Lingle
19 administration, and the legislature is working
20 together, and, hopefully, we will get that research
21 center. I am optimistic that we can get it past
22 with the legislature and speak with the governor and
23 hopefully convince her to get the monies released
24 given the economic conditions, but, you know,
25 there's a lot of components involved with that.

1 But I did talk to Goodwill Hawaii, and
2 they are committed to having a resource center, and
3 I think Josie can maybe speak more to this issue,
4 but it seems like the resource center is going to be
5 something that we can and will do. We are also
6 working with our congressional delegation, both
7 Congressman Hirono and Senator Akaka both, I know,
8 have the applications for the resource center, so it
9 looks like it is something that if it is not going
10 to be in the very near future, I think that it is
11 something that is needed, and we certainly will work
12 towards that effort to create a resource center
13 because as we can see by the last two days of
14 meetings, it is something that is needed, and it
15 just -- it has to be done, so we have just got to do
16 what it takes to get it done. Thank you.

17 MR. GRAHAM: Just to add on to that, at
18 the very least, as a result of this conference, one
19 of the specific recommendations was that some kind
20 of directory of contacts and references be developed
21 where each of the organizations -- and there are,
22 again, dozens of organizations represented here
23 today -- and their contact people be listed, so if
24 an organization like Chaminade has a specific area
25 that they would like to provide assistance with, at

1 least this directory can point you in some
2 directions in terms of who to contact, e-mail
3 addresses and things like that.

4 And this directory, one of the other
5 specific recommendations -- I am going off the list
6 here -- is that this also be put on the web site so
7 that all of us here can contact each other about any
8 specific issues.

9 So any other questions?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One more
11 question.

12 MR. GRAHAM: Can you ask in the
13 microphone? Sorry. Don't forget your shoe.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In the
15 recommendations, having worked in the bureaucratic
16 system, we would respond well if there's a time line
17 and who will be responsible. Will that be in the
18 elements of the recommendations?

19 MR. GRAHAM: I know I am going back to
20 the Marshall Islands tomorrow morning, so whoever,
21 yeah, that's a good recommendation. In fact, why
22 don't we just draft legislation right now?

23 No, I agree with you, I think that it
24 should be more focused and directed at which
25 offices, and I hope that there are people who can

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1 help craft that, and, again, the organizers of this
2 conference, they can provide some technical
3 assistance to have it sharper and more focused in
4 terms of, you know, when we say service providers,
5 who are we talking about? Homework for some people.

6 Any other questions? All right, so I
7 will hand it back to the emcee, and we will wrap
8 things up. Thank you very much.

MS. HOWARD: Thank you very much, Ben,
10 for such a well-done summary of all the
11 recommendations. Just to make a short comment on
12 one of the questions where do you direct resources
13 if you have, you know, some, if you want to put up a
14 resource. I want to comment on or recognize that
15 the Office of the Attorney General, I think I
16 already mentioned it yesterday, alongside with the
17 Office of Community Services and with the Nation of
18 Micronesia, they are putting together an orientation
19 booklet, and in that orientation booklet there is a
20 list of resources, and if this is a place to go, you
21 may want to see either Barbara, Sam Aiona or
22 Valerie. I know Valerie is somewhere here.

23 And with saying that, I would like to
24 recognize Sam Aiona, the director of the Office of
25 Community Services, because he is the man behind

1 many of the successful programs like the Micronesian
2 cultural awareness program and my own program, the
3 Imi Loa. Sam, please stand up. You deserve an
4 applause.

5 Okay, so at this time, without further
6 ado, I would like to ask Dr. David to please come up
7 and introduce their representative for the governor.
8 Dr. David?

9 DR. HANLON: Before I introduce the
10 governor's representatives, I just want to respond
11 to Richard Salvador's request and say that, yes, the
12 Center for Pacific Island Studies will be happy to
13 facilitate, contact, directories, general resources
14 that come out of this conference. We have a web
15 site, and we will be delighted to use that web site,
16 especially its resource section, to facilitate the
17 kinds of contact information and other resources
18 that people are requesting.

19 As I indicated to you in my opening
20 remarks of yesterday, we had asked Governor Lingle
21 to join us and to speak at the end of these two
22 days, and she had very graciously agreed to do so,
23 and Sam, Sam Aiona, had told me earlier that the
24 governor's office was working to help prepare and
25 facilitate her presence. Unfortunately, her mother